

December 18, 2007

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

The City of Vernon has proposed the development of a 943 megawatt power plant that is currently being considered by the California Energy Commission (CEC). This facility, if approved, will produce in excess of 880 tons of air emissions per year making it one of the largest contributors of pollutants to the greater Los Angeles air basin. For some regulated pollutants the story is worse—it will tie for the 7th largest contributor of PM-10 emissions, will rank as the 16th biggest producer of carbon monoxide, and will be the 21st largest producer of nitrogen oxide emissions.

The Los Angeles region has the dirtiest air basin in the nation. The communities surrounding Vernon have some of the most unhealthy air in Los Angeles. With the multiple stationary and mobile sources of air pollution in this region, residents face increased health risk from asthma, emphysema and other respiratory disease. Studies have shown children are most vulnerable and can suffer permanent lung impairment. Adding more air pollutants to this region is unacceptable—the opposite must occur.

MOTION

Molina	_____
Yaroslavsky	_____
Knabe	_____
Antonovich	_____
Burke	_____

The California Energy Commission will conduct the environmental review of this proposal. The CEC is empowered to approve or deny the power plant as proposed; make modifications including reducing the size of the facility; and order any mitigations necessary to reduce its negative impacts. Also of note, the facility has been approved to purchase ninety million dollars of "Priority Reserve" air pollution offsets from SCAQMD that should, but have not yet been allocated to reduce pollutants from other pollution sources in nearby communities.

While residents of all surrounding communities deserve representation in the important CEC review process, it is especially the responsibility of the County to represent the interests of unincorporated residents of Florence Firestone, and East Los Angeles.

The CEC process allows for the intervention of concerned parties whereby interveners can directly participate in hearings, produce and examine witnesses, and otherwise represent their interest in the proceedings. The National Resources Defense Council has intervened on behalf of the Mothers of East Los Angeles, the Boyle Heights Residents Association and others. The City of Los Angeles, upon unanimous approval of the City Council, is seeking to intervene. It is incumbent upon the County to intervene to assure that any facility that is constructed is allowed only if a simultaneous greater reduction of pollutants by other pollution sources in the vicinity can be guaranteed.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer, with the assistance of County Counsel and any appropriate

departments, to expeditiously apply to the California Energy Commission to intervene as an interested party in the proposed Vernon Power Plant application (Docket number 06-AFC-4), and work with the City of Los Angeles and the National Resources Defense Council to assure that the air quality and public health of Los Angeles County residents is protected as the review proceedings proceed.

GH/ch